

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please replace claims 18, 28, and 29 with amended claims 18, 28, and 29 as follows:

-- 18. (Twice Amended) A method for transferring an amino group from an amino acid to an α -keto acid comprising:

contacting an amino acid in the presence of an α -keto acid with an isolated enzyme selected from the group consisting of an enzyme having an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to any one of SEQ ID NOs:25-32 when aligned using the BLASTN program of the National Center for Biotechnology Information wherein the enzyme has transaminase or aminotransferase activity; and

thereby transferring an amino group from the amino acid to the α -keto acid.

28. (Amended) The isolated enzyme of claim 17, wherein the transaminase or aminotransferase activity is an activity of transferring an α -amino group from an amino acid to an α -ketoglutarate.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the transaminase or aminotransferase activity is an activity of transferring an amino group from an α -amino acid to an α -ketoglutarate.

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